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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, Office Of
Communications, Room 556-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call
(202) 720-5881.

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News Releases-

Release No. 0450.94

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ESPY APPOINTS BURLEY TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, June 14 -- Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has named 39 members and their alternates to the Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee. The members and alternates will serve two-year terms ending Feb. 13, 1996.

The committee makes recommendations to the secretary of agriculture on the equitable assignment of tobacco inspectors to all designated markets for burley tobacco.

"Under the Tobacco Inspection Act, tobacco must be officially inspected in order to be auctioned at any designated market," said Lon Hatamiya, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

The Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee, established in 1990, is authorized under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The committee reports to the director of AMS's Tobacco Division. Committee members represent burley tobacco producers, buyers and warehousemen.

Newly appointed producer members and their alternates are: Steven Robert Hornback, Shelbyville, Ky., and alternate Bert Eldred Rogers, Somerset; George Marsh Marks, Clarksville, Tenn., and alternate Margaret Rebecca Flynn, Gallatin; John Henry Heick, Paris, Ky., and alternate Joseph Richard Wright, Harned; Frances Mayola Gregory, Laconia, Ind., and alternate George Mansfield Lucas Jr., Scottsburg; Mary Ann Rankin McCormack, Flemingsburg, Ky., and alternate Danny Ray Wilkinson, Columbia; Donald Dean Smither, Liberty, Ky., and alternate Kerry Hade Lyons, Tompkinsville; Jacquelyn Cannon Mark, Mount Sterling, Ky., and alternate Jack Lloyd Wise, Winchester; Edward Myrel Trunnell, Utica, Ky., and alternate Joseph Raphael Hughes, Vine Grove; Donald Ross Smart, Waynesville, N.C., and alternate Scottie Bryant Thomas, Franklin; Yuki Loyd Britt, Johnson City, Tenn., and alternate Carl Elmer Biddle, Talbott; Bobby Wayne Gregory Sr., Bethpage, Tenn., and alternate Herman Royster Henry, Riddleton; Anna Mae Slemph, Dryden, Va., and alternate Thomas Harry Arnold, Abingdon; Virgil Norris Edwards, Hurricane, W.Va., and alternate Robert Lee Neal, East Lynn.

Newly appointed buyer members and their alternates are: Donald Thomas Smith, Horse Cave, Ky., and alternate Louis Edward Burch, Greensboro, N.C.; Sheree Hayes Roebuck, Stokes, N.C., and alternate Herbert Lundy Booth Jr., Clemons; Robert Allen Angel, Winston-Salem, N.C., and alternate Julian Gayle Singer, Stamping Ground, Ky.; Harvey Barron Ruffin, Wilson, N.C., and alternate James Thompson Boone, Smithfield.

Newly appointed warehouse members and their alternates are: Jeff Sloan Kemp, Pleasant Shade, Tenn., and alternate Carroll Johnson III, Gallatin; Thomas Medly Bale, Cave City, Ky., and alternate Bennett Warren Hawthorne Jr., Richmond, Va.

Reappointed producer members and their alternates are: Lucian Thomas Dunn, Lancaster, Ky., and alternate William Thomas Comer, Mayslick; Daniel Ray Branstetter, Horse Cave, Ky., and alternate Albert Thomas Robertson, Bethel; Ralph Woodrow Singleton, Campbellsburg, Ky., and alternate Allen Theodore Harman, Lexington; William Wilson Henry Sr., Finchville, Ky., and alternate Martha Wesley Thompson, Versailles; William Martin Kuegel Jr., Owensboro, Ky., and alternate Albert William Pedigo, Fountain Run; Jerry Seaton Cox, Weston, Mo., and alternate Mark Steele Pierce, De Kalb; Kenneth Stephen Ring, Georgetown, Ohio, and alternate Larry Wayne Hall, Georgetown; Cynthia Kaye Compton Honaker, Va., and alternate William Lee Hartsock, Castlewood.

Reappointed buyer members and their alternates are: George Kelly Ashley, Maysville, Ky., and alternate Eugene Cooper Wortham, Midlothian, Va.; Merion Earl Haskins, Richmond, Va., and alternate William Kemp Riggan, Richmond; Thomas Allen Norvell, Danville, Ky., and alternate James Taylor Botkin, Lexington; Donald Ray Duncan, Timberlake, N.C., and alternate Jimmy Daniels Cousins, Kinston.

Reappointed warehouse members and their alternates are: Eugene Spicer Rose, Owenton, Ky., and alternate Brown Johnson Sharp, Lexington; Thomas Lee Rankin, Danville, Ky., and alternate Jess Lee Chinn, Vanceburg; Thomas Benjamin Brown Jr., Olmstead, Ky., and alternate Robert Barry Brannen, Statesboro, Ga.; Sanford Roff Parker, Maysville, Ky., and alternate Roy David Griffin, Ripley, Ohio; Henry Randolph Currin, Rogersville, Tenn., and alternate David Wayne Bryan, Sweetwater; Frederick Henry Serral, Greeneville, Tenn., and alternate George Alderson Bundy Jr., Cedar Bluff, Va.; George McDaniel Leer, Paris, Ky., and alternate Thomas Murray Lewis, Mayfield; William Benjamin Crain, Versailles, Ky., and alternate Charles Joseph Kamuf, Owensboro.



Release No. 0451.94
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LANDS GROUP DISTORTS USDA DATA ON GRAZING FEE IMPACT

WASHINGTON, June 14 -- A group representing western livestock interests has grossly misrepresented U.S. Department of Agriculture data on the impact of higher grazing fees on ranchers with Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) loans, FmHA Administrator Michael V. Dunn said today.

"Allegations by the Public Lands Council that more reasonable grazing fees for use of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands would bankrupt large numbers of ranchers in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming are simply not true," said Dunn.

"At this point I will give the organization the benefit of the doubt and assume their distortion of our data was based on misinterpretation and not a deliberate attempt to mislead the public," said Dunn. "I want to make clear, FmHA fully supports the Administration's rangeland reform proposal."

The council issued a statement on Monday alleging that a USDA analysis predicted defaults of more than 50 percent of FmHA's farm borrowers in the four states if grazing fees were increased.

"That is dead wrong," Dunn said. "Our informal survey of the four states shows that, at the most, .03 percent to 1.4 percent of FmHA farmers and ranchers with grazing permits would feel any real financial impact."

In addition, Dunn said that because the survey was nonscientific, it could have an error rate of up to 20 percent.

"Even these figures fade into insignificance when you take into account normal loan servicing actions such as deferred payments, unequal payments, rescheduling and other options available to FmHA's farm borrowers," Dunn added.

Dunn said that every person or group has a right to speak up for important interests.

"Deliberate distortion, however, seriously damages the cause and makes future cooperation a very difficult matter," he said.



Release No. 0452.94
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USDA STRESSES SAFE HANDLING OF GROUND BEEF IN CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, June 14--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today stressed safe food handling in the preparation of ground beef in San Luis Obispo County, California, where three cases of foodborne illness traced to E. coli O157:H7 infections have been reported.

"Proper cooking and handling of raw ground beef will destroy the E. coli O157:H7 organism," said Terry L. Medley, acting administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Medley said Tuesday that USDA has traced the source of hamburger to Vons Meat Service Center in El Monte, Calif. USDA compliance officers are reviewing receiving and distribution records at Vons in an attempt to determine the origin of the hamburger and further distribution by Vons.

Hamburger reportedly eaten by three children at their homes came from three separate Vons Markets located in Atascadero, Santa Maria and Los Osos. The three San Luis Obispo County children who became ill in May have been treated at hospitals and released.

Medley said Tuesday that a laboratory test was positive on a ground beef sample implicated in the third reported San Luis Obispo County case. The ground beef had been stored in a freezer and was sent to a USDA laboratory on June 6 after a 7-year-old child was treated and released at a hospital. The two other children, who were not related, were also reported to have eaten ground beef prepared at their homes, but no samples were available for testing.

The San Luis Obispo County Health Department's Environmental Health Division has been working with USDA compliance officers and USDA's liaison at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Medley noted that continued reports of outbreaks and isolated cases of foodborne illness throughout the country confirm the importance of paying careful attention to safe handling instructions on packages of raw meat and poultry products. The instructions have been required on ground raw product since May 27 and will be mandatory after July 6 on other raw meat and poultry such as whole birds and roasts.

Consumers should be especially careful to thoroughly cook ground product since the E. coli O157:H7 bacteria can be distributed throughout the meat during grinding and may not be destroyed if the meat is not cooked to a proper temperature (160 degrees Fahrenheit).

A recently mandated USDA safe cooking and handling label states: Some food products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if the product is mishandled or cooked improperly.

The label further notes that raw meat and poultry should be: refrigerated or frozen and thawed in a refrigerator or microwave; kept separate from other foods and working surfaces (while hands and utensils should be washed after touching raw meats); cooked thoroughly; and refrigerated immediately or discarded.

Consumers wishing additional safe cooking and handling information are encouraged to call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at: 1-800-535-4555.



Release No. 0453.94

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USDA'S FOREST SERVICE AND PARTNERS DEBUT UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDE

WASHINGTON, June 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, joined by the head of President Clinton's Domestic Policy Council and representatives from the American Recreation Coalition and Project Play and Learning in Adaptable Environments, Inc. (PLAE), today unveiled the most recent tool in the effort to make America's national forests and other recreational areas accessible to all Americans.

A new design guide, titled Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide, provides a comprehensive approach to integrating universal access into outdoor recreation environments.

At a press conference featuring representatives from federal agencies, non-profit organizations and private companies, speakers focused on both the need to improve access to America's recreation areas and the many cooperative efforts that are already underway across the nation.

USDA's Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment James R. Lyons spoke of the leading role that the Forest Service and other federal agencies are playing in integrating universal access into their facilities. "The Americans with Disabilities Act challenged federal agencies to serve as an example for the country--and the agencies responded," he said.

"The Forest Service and other federal agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service are leading the way in opening up our public lands to all people, including those with disabilities.

This isn't just about wheelchair ramps," he added. "It's about responding to the needs of all people."

Traditionally, recreation areas were designed for "average people" which generally excluded people with disabilities. The new design guide is a direct response to that problem. It is the first guide to address integrating universal access into a spectrum of outdoor recreation settings--from highly developed, urban/rural areas which foster an easy degree of access, to natural settings which are moderately accessible and natural in their design, to semi-primitive and primitive settings where challenge and risk are inherently part of the setting.

Susan Goltsman, co-director of PLAE, said that universal design benefits everyone. "Universal access is responsive to the needs of a diversity of people," she said. "Kids standing at a scenic overlook gain the same benefit from lower handrails as does a person in a wheelchair."

According to Joe Meade, director of the Forest Service's accessibility program, the recreation choices of more than 163 million people are affected by design barriers. "There are more than 43 million people with disabilities in the United States," he said. "If you then consider their families and friends, you can multiply that figure by 3.8, which gets you approximately 163 million people."

So when we build campgrounds, restrooms, trails and other facilities that accommodate the needs of all individuals, we're improving the recreation experience for well over half the U.S. population. It's clear that universal design isn't just the right thing to do, it makes good sense."

Derrick Crandall, President of the American Recreation Coalition, spoke about the difficulty small business owners have faced in trying, without help, to integrate universal design into their facilities. "Most of the recreation services industry consists of small businesses, which want to serve their customers well," he said. "The Americans with Disabilities Act has added motivation--but little help--for the campground operator looking for practical guidance on how to make their recreation facilities accessible. This guide contains the information the recreation industry needs."

The guide was developed through a public/private partnership between the Forest Service and Project Play and Learning in Adaptable Environments, Inc., and is available through MIG Communications, 1802 Fifth Street, Berkeley, Calif. 94710, (510) 845-0953, FAX (510) 845-8750.



Release No. 0454.94
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USDA CONFIRMS DISEASE IN CALIFORNIA POULTRY FLOCK

WASHINGTON, June 15 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed that an outbreak of a poultry disease on a California egg ranch was caused by *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) phage type 4.

Information to date indicates the infection is contained on one ranch in Riverside County. Epidemiological investigations to determine the source of the infection are ongoing.

To ensure that the disease does not spread, California animal health officials are handling the flock under procedures similar to those in the USDA SE program. Eggs from houses where egg infection has been found are being sent to pasteurization plants. A state hold order has been placed to stop any movement of birds and equipment from this ranch.

Test results from bird submissions taken during routine industry health monitoring were confirmed at APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories at Ames, Iowa. Although this was the first diagnosis of SE phage type 4 in a U.S. poultry operation, this strain of *Salmonella* has been detected before in this country in pet birds and in human cases of salmonellosis found in international travelers and recent U.S. immigrants.

SE phage type 4 is present in the commercial egg industries of countries around the world. In these countries, this type of SE caused widespread disease and mortality in poultry in the late 1980's. Recent reports suggest there is no greater disease significance in phage type 4 than in other phage types of SE.

Since 1989, the USDA program to control SE in U.S. laying flocks has been working to find ways to reduce the prevalence of this disease. The types of SE commonly found in the United States usually do not cause disease in poultry, but can be a public health concern if contaminated eggs are improperly handled or prepared.

There are no reported human cases related to the California infection.



Release No. 0456.94
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USDA ANNOUNCES 1994-CROP CORN, GRAIN SORGHUM AND SOYBEANS COUNTY PRICE SUPPORT RATES

WASHINGTON, June 17--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced county price support rates for the 1994 crops of corn, grain sorghum and soybeans.

The 1994-crop price support rates were determined in accordance with the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, and reflect changes in the national average price support rates.

Some county rates were adjusted to reflect location and transportation costs. As mandated by the 1949 Act, these adjustments were limited to a three percent change (except for soybeans) in addition to the change in the national average price support levels from the 1993 crop price support levels.

Copies of the rate schedules are available from: Thomas Fink, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013; telephone (202) 720-8701.



Release No. 0457.94
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USDA PROHIBITS IMPORTS OF BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS AND HEDGEHOGS FROM NEW ZEALAND

WASHINGTON, June 17--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has placed a ban on the importation of brushtail possums and hedgehogs from New Zealand because of the high risk of these animals having bovine tuberculosis.

New Zealand veterinary officials have reported to USDA that tuberculosis is endemic in their brushtail possum population and that these animals are a constant source of disease for the domestic livestock in their country. Because hedgehogs live in the same habitat as brushtail possums in New Zealand, it is likely that hedgehogs may also have this disease.

The ban is prompted by a USDA risk assessment conducted earlier this year that estimated a very high probability that at least one possum in each shipment sent to the United States could be infected with tuberculosis. There is also no recognized test for detecting tuberculosis in brushtail possums or in hedgehogs.

Bovine tuberculosis is caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, which can cause disease in many animal species, including cattle, bison, deer and elk. Although the current resurgence of human tuberculosis is caused by a different bacteria than *M. bovis*, humans can contract bovine tuberculosis through breathing in exhalations or handling infected possums or hedgehogs being kept as pets.

Written comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Aug. 5. To comment, send an original and three copies referring to docket number 94-032-1 to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments once received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to review comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.



Release No. 0459.94
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USDA'S FOREST SERVICE RELEASES ITS INTERIM REINVENTION REPORT

WASHINGTON, June 17--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service today released an interim report reflecting proposals on how to reinvent the agency, and position itself as the "Forest Service of the Future"

The interim report was drafted by agency employees charged with crafting ways the Forest Service could be reinvented to meet the challenges of the 21 century. The interim report titled Architecture for Change--Interim Report of the Forest Service Reinvention Team, outlines five different models of a future Forest Service that better reflects the changing needs and desires of society. It draws on the ideas and concepts from over 3,000 comments offered by individuals and groups from around the country over the last six months. The interim report also includes a nationwide poll revealing public opinion on management of the national forests and grasslands for which the Forest Service is responsible.

"The interim report takes a long-term and very bold approach for meeting the needs of the people of America, protecting our country's natural resources, and establishing the Forest Service as the leading conservation agency in the world," said Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas.

"The Forest Service was challenged to redefine its role and relationship with its customers and the American people. This interim report clearly shows their willingness to meet that challenge," said James R. Lyons, assistant secretary for natural resources and environment. He noted that over the next few months, the public will have numerous opportunities to be actively engaged in the discussions about reinventing the Forest Service.

"We cannot and will not make major changes to this agency without the help of the American people," said Thomas.

A report describing the "Forest Service of the Future" including the strategies for achieving that vision is to be released this fall after public and employee comments on this interim report are considered.

A copy of the report is available upon request to:

Forest Service, USDA
Attn: Public Affairs
PO Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090
(202) 205-0957

Comments on the report should be directed to Carl Huguin and will be accepted until August 15, 1994.



Release No. 0460.94
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STATES TO SHARE AN ESTIMATED \$299 MILLION IN RECEIPTS FROM NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

WASHINGTON, June 17--An estimated \$299 million in receipts from national forests and grasslands for 1994 will be shared among 43 states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

Jack Ward Thomas, chief of USDA's Forest Service, said receipts are collected from land-use fees and sale of resources on 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands. Federal law requires states to use their share of the receipts for public schools and roads.

"Providing advance estimates of the state payments for fiscal year 1994 helps local budget planners complete their work," said Thomas. "The final payments will be based on actual receipts collected and may vary from the estimates announced today."

Interim payments totaling 75 percent of the estimated state shares of national forest receipts will be made in October. The balance will be paid in December, when final revenue figures for fiscal year 1994 are available.

Counties in some of the states also share in the national grassland and land utilization project receipts which are based on calendar year 1994 revenues. Thomas said these receipts will be paid in March 1995.

States received more than \$324 million as their share of 1993 national forest revenues. Counties participating in the national grasslands program received \$4.5 million in revenue from land use fees.

State by state, the estimated 1994 payments are:

STATE	PAYMENTS FROM NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS FROM LAND UTILIZATION FEES ON NATIONAL GRASSLANDS
ALABAMA	\$ 1,500,636.29	
ALASKA	4,810,781.27	
ARIZONA	4,298,304.84	
ARKANSAS	3,494,991.94	\$ 1,000.00
CALIFORNIA */	49,953,007.21	112.50
COLORADO	5,948,667.99	126,852.50
FLORIDA	1,204,750.00	7,250.01
GEORGIA	1,265,000.03	
IDAHO	18,530,639.05	5,258.50
ILLINOIS	40,775.02	
INDIANA	8,598.18	
KANSAS		613,500.00
KENTUCKY	527,220.63	42,500.00
LOUISIANA	1,602,500.01	
MAINE	37,109.19	
MARYLAND		3,736.17
MICHIGAN	2,004,260.35	40,750.02
MINNESOTA	2,742,347.29	
MISSISSIPPI	5,975,774.80	
MISSOURI	836,800.03	
MONTANA	12,476,687.71	
NEBRASKA	40,516.76	7,162.50
NEVADA	395,832.83	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	543,524.96	
NEW MEXICO	1,459,738.66	12,061.51
NEW YORK	3,970.22	
NORTH CAROLINA	726,534.43	
NORTH DAKOTA	57.25	1,863,626.52
OHIO	27,250.02	60.00
OKLAHOMA	443,624.88	350,361.18
OREGON */	123,550,786.72	8,675.00
PENNSYLVANIA	4,521,614.21	250.13
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,389,275.02	
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,670,022.28	77,615.50
TENNESSEE	394,557.26	
TEXAS	3,136,717.22	123,986.49
UTAH	1,592,008.76	

VERMONT	142,979.00	
VIRGINIA	646,654.00	
WASHINGTON */	32,340,428.62	
WEST VIRGINIA	1,098,459.48	
WISCONSIN	1,060,920.45	
WYOMING	1,956,068.60	332,987.49
PUERTO RICO	14,625.01	
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GRAND TOTAL	\$295,415,018.47	\$3,617,746.02

*/ Estimated payments to California, Oregon and Washington were computed under a provision of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. Section 13983 of that Act provides for payments to States for Fiscal Year 1994 of 85 percent of the five-year average payments for fiscal years 1986-90 for those national forests affected by decisions on the northern spotted owl. Estimated payments to these states are higher because of this legislation than they would have been if based solely on actual receipts.



Release No. 0461.94
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USDA PROVIDES GUIDELINES ON FEDERALLY-FUNDED CONVERSION OF PRIME FARMLAND

WASHINGTON, June 17--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a final rule that requires federal agencies to give additional review to any use of federal funds to convert the nation's prime farmland to nonagricultural use.

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger said, "This rule will help local communities maintain a viable agricultural base, protect farms, and implement federal programs consistent with state and local policy to protect important farmlands."

"I'd like to give special thanks for the hard work that went into this cooperative effort," Rominger said. "Senator Patrick J. Leahy, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, drafted the legislation, and Ralph Grossi, president of the American Farmland Trust, provided leadership among private organizations."

The final rule implements amendments made in 1985 to the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (Act). It provides guidelines to federal agencies (1) to minimize the extent federal programs contribute to the irreversible conversion of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses and (2) to ensure, to the extent practicable, that federal programs are compatible with state and local programs to protect farmland.

The Act seeks to protect the best agricultural land in viable agricultural areas. Agencies must consider alternatives that could lessen the impact of their actions on prime farmland.

Federal agencies, under the rule, will review their policy and procedures for making decisions that could convert farmland to nonagricultural use and make revisions, as needed, to comply with the Act. This includes determining the conditions under which they would provide or deny assistance that could convert prime farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Examples of federal actions affected include loans to construct houses on farmland and federal funding for the construction of highways, reservoirs, airports, and local sewer and water systems.

USDA has been assigned leadership for the implementation of the Act. Within USDA, leadership for implementation has been assigned to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Federal agencies are to provide information to the chief of SCS by November 15, 1994, on how they are implementing this USDA rule, to include their policy and procedure revisions. In addition, federal agencies will now be requested to send results of evaluations on proposed conversions once each decision has been made.

The final rule was published in today's Federal Register for June 17, 1994.



Program Announcements-

Release No. 0448.94
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USDA RELEASES SWEETENER MARKET DATA REPORT FOR APRIL 1994

WASHINGTON, June 14--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today released its Sweetener Market Data report for April 1994.

Report totals, in short tons (2,000 pounds), include:

- April 1, 1994 beginning sugar stocks - 3,979,615.
- U.S. beet sugar production for April 1994 - 166,360.
- U.S. cane sugar production for April 1994 - 76,978.
- Deliveries for April 1994 - 669,889, including deliveries for domestic human consumption - 654,613.
- April 30, 1994 ending sugar stocks - 3,640,200.

Copies of the Sweetener Market Data report for April 1994 data are available from the Sweeteners Analysis Division, ASCS/USDA, Room 3727-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013; telephone (202) 720-3391; FAX (202) 720-8261.



Release No. 0449.94
Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, June 14--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels: 8.67 cents per pound
- medium grain whole kernels: 11.37 cents per pound
- short grain whole kernels: 11.22 cents per pound
- broken kernels: 4.33 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$1.28	\$0.00
--for medium grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00
--for short grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00

The announced prices and rates are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made June 21, 1994 at 3:00 P.M. EDT.



USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, June 16--Grant Buntrock, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (leaf grade 4, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, June 23. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 17 through midnight Thursday, June 23.

This period represents Week 5 of the 6-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the AWP calculation. For Weeks 5 and 6, the Northern Europe (NE) price = [NE current price + (2 x NE forward price)]/3. The USNE price = [USNE current price + (2 x USNE forward price)]/3.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday-through-Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. Because this week's calculated AWP is equal to 135 percent of the 1993 upland cotton base quality loan rate, a further adjustment cannot be made.

Because both current and forward NE coarse count prices are not yet available, the CCA is calculated using the NE current price and the only NE coarse count price available.

This week's AWP and CCA are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	84.31
Adjustments:	
Avg. U.S. spot market location	11.91
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.50
Avg. U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	- 13.72
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	70.59 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price Current Price	86.39
NE Coarse Count Price	- 84.42
	1.97
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.20
	- 1.23
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is above 52.35 cents per pound--the base quality loan rate for both the 1992 and 1993 marketing years--the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the loan rate, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks, but not all of the previous four AWP's have been less than 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. This rate is applicable during the Friday-through-Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday-through- Thursday Period Ending	Announced AWP As Percent of the 1993 Loan Rate	USNE Price cents/lb	NE Price	Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate
1	May 26, 1994	136.5	91.05 (c)	86.72 (c)	0
2	June 2, 1994	135.5	90.38 (c)	86.63 (c)	0
3	June 9, 1994	135.6	89.45 (c)	86.65 (c)	0
4	June 16, 1994	134.8	88.45 (c)	86.39 (c)	0

(c) Based on current price quotations.

The forward user marketing certificate payment rate is based on the lower of: a) the difference in the fourth week between the USNE forward price and the NE forward price, minus 1.25 cents, or b) 20 percent of the difference in the fourth week between the USNE forward price and the NE forward price, minus 1.25 cents plus the previous week's rate for which forward shipments were eligible. Although the USNE forward price has exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks, not all of the previous four AWP's have been less than 130 percent of the 1994 crop year base quality loan rate. As a result, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. The forward payment rate is applicable during the Friday-through-Thursday period for contracts entered into by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday-through- Thursday Period Ending	Announced AWP As Percent of the 1994 Loan Rate 1/	USNE Forward Price cents/lb	NE Forward Price	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate
1	May 26, 1994	142.9	83.45 (f)	82.10 (f)	n/a
2	June 2, 1994	141.8	84.38 (f)	82.65 (f)	n/a
3	June 9, 1994	142.0	84.30 (f)	82.79 (f)	0
4	June 16, 1994	141.2	84.90 (f)	83.27 (f)	0

(f) Based on forward price quotations.

1/ 1994 Loan Rate is 50.00 cents per pound.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, June 23 at 5 p.m.



